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May 30, 1997

The Honorable Ernest J. Istook, Jr.
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Dear Congressman Istook:

Re: H.J. RES. 78 Religious Liberty Amendment

The Salvation Army adds its endorsement to the 118 cosponsors of the Religious Freedom Amendment "To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: The people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. The Government shall not require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, initiate or designate school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny access to a benefit on account of religion."

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army, with 453,150 members, 39,000 employees, 1,509,899 volunteers and over 9,500 centers of operation in the United States and one of the largest non-governmental providers of social services strongly believes in the right of the individual to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage and traditions.

We encourage Congress to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Robert A. Watson
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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